

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /077 W
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R 180955Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMZGBASSY ATHENS 835
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1798

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BU, YO, SOCI
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN/YUGOSLAV SNIPING OVER MACEDONIA

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN SOFIA ANNOYED OVER
LATEST BULGARIAN "HIT" IN RUNNING SNIPING MATCH OVER
MACEDONIA. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST ABRASIVE YUGOSLAV POSITION FROM BULGARIAN
POINT-OF-VIEW AT THIS POINT IN BULGARIAN/YUGOSLAV RUNNING
FEUD OVER MACEDONIA IS YUGOSLAV INSISTENCE THAT BULGARIA
HAS MACEDONIAN MINORITY WHOSE RIGHTS AND CULTURE IT MUST
ACKNOWLEDGE AND PROTECT. BULGARIAN CONTENTION THAT
MACEDONIANS ARE REALLY BULGARIANS PRECLUDES ACCEPTANCE OF
YUGOSLAV POSITION. AND SO IT STANDS, BUT DOES NOT REST.

3. IN SPRING OF THIS YEAR, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
(BAN) RELEASED FIRST VOLUME OF ITS NEW BULGARIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA.
ENCYCLOPEDIA HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PRINTED IN 1974. COPIES
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APPEARED IN BOOKSTORES THAT YEAR AND THEN WERE QUICKLY
WITHDRAWN WE ARE TOLD IN RESPONSE TO YUGOSLAV FURY WHEN
THEY SAW PARTS RELATED TO MACEDONIA. IN COMPARISON TO
PREVIOUS ENCYCLOPEDIA, GONE WAS SEPARATE ENTRY ON "MACEDONIAN
LANGUAGE," ENTRY FOR CONTROVERSIAL "MACEDONIAN POET" BENKO
MARKOVSKI HAD BEEN CHANGED TO DESCRIBE HIM AS "BULGARIAN
REVOLUTIONARY POET," INSTEAD OF PREVIOUS DESCRIPTION AS

"REVOLUTIONARY POET OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA," AND, WORST OF ALL, NEW ENTRY ON "MACEDONIA" STATED THAT POST-SECOND BALKAN WAR 1913 BUCHAREST TREATY "WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BULGARIAN NATIONAL ORIENTATION OF PREDOMINANT PART OF POPULATION, TURNED OVER LARGER PARTS OF MACEDONIA TO SERBIA (YUGOSLAVIA) AND GREECE."

4. LATEST, VERY PUBLIC BULGARIAN SALLY IS INCLUDED IN BOOKLET PREPARED BY GOB FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION IN MANY LANGUAGES DURING PRESENT UNIVERSIADA YOUTH GAMES IN SOFIA. IN SECTION, "WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BULGARIA?" BULGARIAN POPULATION IS DESCRIBED ETHNICALLY. 89 PERCENT ARE BULGARIAN, 8.6 PERCENT ARE TURKS (COMMENT: AT LEAST 1/4-MILLION LOW ACCORDING TO TURKISH EMBASSY END COMMENT), AND REST ARE "ARMENIANS, GREEKS, GYPSIES, JEWS, RUSSIANS, ROMANIANS, ETC." NO MACEDONIANS, NOT THE YUGOSLAVS.

5. YUGOSLAV EMBOFF SAYS THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME BULGARIANS HAVE GIVEN ANY ETHNIC DATA ON 1975 CENSUS AND ADDS THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS QUITE ANNOYED OVER BOOKLET, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING BREADTH OF DISTRIBUTION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY PROSPECTS OF TITO OR ZHIVKOV STATE VISITS DURING NEXT YEAR, HE ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH IT WAS TITO'S TURN TO VISIT SOFIA, HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION. BULGARIANS REALIZED THIS AND WERE COURTING INVITATION FOR ZHIVKOV TO VISIT BELGRADE, WHICH YUGOSLAV SAID WOULD NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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FORTHCOMING IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
FELDMAN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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